

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/019,770	GUNTVEIT ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tan Le	3632	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3/16/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 4-6.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is responsive to Applicants' amendment filed 3/16/06, which contains claims numbered 1 and 3-5. Claim 2 been canceled.
2. Claims 4-5 and newly added claim 6 are allowed with the following examiner's amendment.

Extension of Time:

3. An extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) is required in order to make an examiner's amendment, which places this application in condition for allowance. During a telephone conversation conducted on 7/07/06, Applicants representative, Mr. Danneil D. Fetterley requested an extension of time for 3 MONTH(S) and authorized the Director to charge Deposit Account No. **01.2000** the required fee of \$510.00 for this extension and authorized the following examiner's amendment. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

4. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Danneil Fetterley on Jul 7, 2006

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 has been canceled.

Claim 3 has been canceled.

Claim 4, line 1, " according to claim 3" has been replaced with -- according to claim 6 --

Claim 4, line 2, "extent" has been deleted and -- extension positioned under said discharge opening of said bowl -- inserted.

Claim 5, line 1, "according to claim 3" has been replaced with -- according to claim 6 --

-- Claim 6 (new): A reverse vending machine device for disposing of liquid remnants removed from containers before the containers are inserted a reverse vending machine, said device comprising: a front cover (14) for the reverse vending machine, said front cover having a front surface, a rear surface, and a container feed opening (22) extending through said front cover and accessible from outside the reverse vending machine, said container feed opening for receiving containers for insertion into the reverse vending machine through said container feed opening and an opening positioned within an internal container handling apparatus (18) of the reverse vending machine that corresponds to the container feed opening of said front cover, said front cover being formed to be secured to the reverse vending machine independently of internal

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container handling apparatus of the reverse vending machine and such that the reverse vending machine is operable with the cover removed, said container feed opening in said front cover being without a fixed connection to pipework within the reverse vending machine, said front cover having a drain opening (26) adjacent said container feed opening, said drain opening being formed as an upwardly open bowl passing through said front cover and extending from the front surface of said front cover for receiving liquid remnants from containers prior to insertion of the containers into the container feed opening, said bowl having a discharge opening (28) positioned behind the rear surface of the front cover for discharging liquid remnants received in the bowl in a downward direction; and a drain channel (30) separate and spaced from said bowl, said drain channel being aligned with said discharge opening of said bowl for receiving liquid remnants discharged from said discharge opening and draining same to an outlet (32). -- has been added.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE:

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

One major difference in claim 6 not found in the closest prior art of Hammond (US 4,919,274) is that Hammond does not teach or suggest the said front cover having a drain opening adjacent said container feed opening, wherein the drain opening is formed as an upwardly open bowl passing through said front cover and extending from the front surface of said front cover for receiving liquid remnants from containers prior to insertion of the containers into the container feed opening, said bowl having a discharge

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opening positioned behind the rear surface of the front cover for discharging liquid remnants received in the bowl in a downward direction; and a drain channel (30) separate and spaced from said bowl, said drain channel being aligned with said discharge opening of said bowl for receiving liquid remnants discharged from said discharge opening and draining same to an outlet (32) as recited in claim 6 in combination with other limitations as a whole which is not found in Hammond or other prior art either singularly or in combination to be participate or rendered the claim obvious.


Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tan Le whose telephone number is (571) 272-6818. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. through Fri. from 9:00 AM-6:00 PM.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Tan Le
Patent examiner
July 6, 2006



RICHARD E. CHILCOT, JR.
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER